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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,782	06/13/2006	Daisuke Yamada	291916US2PCT	5032
22850	7590	04/01/2008	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				JONES, ERIC W
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2892				
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			04/01/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/582,782	YAMADA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ERIC W. JONES	2892	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 June 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/13/2006, 8/10/2006, 8/31/2006, 9/8/2006 and
2/1/2008</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura et al (US 2002/0060583 A1) in view of Tsutomu (JP 2000-206149 A – machine translation provided).

Re claim 1, Kimura et al disclose an anisotropically conductive connector (30 in FIG. 5) to be used for electrically connecting a circuit board (20 in FIG. 5) for an

inspection having an electrode (21/31 in FIG. 5) for an inspection which is provided corresponding to an electrode to be inspected in a circuit device to be an inspection target to the circuit device to be the inspection target. (page 7, ¶ [0116]; page 8, ¶ [0117] and ¶ [0120])

Kimura et al fail to disclose a lubricant is applied to at least a surface on a side which comes in contact with the circuit device to be the inspection target.

Tsutomu discloses an oil coating liquid applied to a probe tip used for testing electrical characteristics of a chip. (Abstract)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the coating liquid of Tsutomu to the teachings of Kimura et al to produce a conventional probe card for electrical characteristics inspection of a chip with accuracy, without the electrode pad of the chip adhering to the tip of the probe or producing a fault due to oxidation of the probe. (page 2 of 9, ¶ [0006])

Re claim 3, Kimura et al disclose a method of inspecting a circuit device which serves to electrically connect an electrode to be inspected in a circuit device to be an inspection target to an inspection electrode (21/31 in FIG. 5) of a circuit board (20 in FIG. 5) for an inspection with an anisotropically conductive connector (30 in FIG. 5) interposed therebetween, thereby carrying out an electrical inspection. (page 7, ¶ [0116]; page 8, ¶ [0117], ¶ [0120] and page 9, ¶ [0135])

Kimura et al fail to disclose having a lubricant applied to at least a surface on a side which comes in contact with the circuit device to be the inspection target is used to cause a surface on the inspected electrode side of the circuit device to come in contact

with the surface of the anisotropically conductive connector to which the lubricant is applied, thereby carrying out an electrical inspection.

Tsutomu discloses an oil coating liquid applied to a probe tip used for testing electrical characteristics of a chip. (Abstract)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the coating liquid of Tsutomu to the teachings of Kimura et al to produce a conventional probe card for electrical characteristics inspection of a chip with accuracy, without the electrode pad of the chip adhering to the tip of the probe or producing a fault due to oxidation of the probe. (page 2 of 9, ¶ [0006])

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura and Tsutomu as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view Yamada et al (5,055,352).

The teachings of Kimura et al and Tsutomu have been discussed above.

Re claim 2, Kimura et al in view of Tsutomu discloses all of the limitations of claim 3.

Kimura et al in view of Tsutomu fails to disclose the lubricant is a metal salt of alkyl sulfonic acid.

Yamada et al disclose lubricating agents of alkylsulfonic acids and metal salts thereof. (column 6, lines 7-17)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the oil coating liquid of Tsutomu with the alkylsulfonic acids and metal salts of Yamada et al to prevent rust corrosion in produced components. (column 6, lines 8-10)

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura and Tsutomu as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Miyazaki (US 6,597,070 B2).

7. The teachings of Kimura et al and Tsutomu have been discussed above.

Re claim 4, Kimura et al in view of Tsutomu discloses all of the limitations of claim 3.

Kimura et al in view of Tsutomu fails to disclose the electrode to be inspected in the circuit device to be the inspection target is a solder projected electrode.

Miyazaki discloses solder projecting electrodes (20 in FIG. 1E; column 7, line 67 - column 8, lines 1-2)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the inspection electrode of Kimura et al with the solder projecting electrode of Miyazaki since the examiner takes Official Notice of the equivalence of conductive electrodes and solder projecting electrodes in for their use in the device connection art and the selection of any one of these known equivalents to connect a device would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art. See MPEP § 2144.06.

8. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura and Tsutomu as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view Yamada et al.

9. The teachings of Kimura et al and Tsutomu have been discussed above.

Re claims 5 and 6, Kimura et al in view of Tsutomu discloses all of the limitations of claim 3.

Kimura et al in view of Tsutomu fails to disclose the lubricant is a metal salt of alkyl sulfonic acid.

Yamada et al disclose lubricating agents of alkylsulfonic acids and metal salts thereof. (column 6, lines 7-17)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the oil coating liquid of Tsutomu with the alkylsulfonic acids and metal salts of Yamada et al to prevent rust corrosion in produced components. (column 6, lines 8-10)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ERIC W. JONES whose telephone number is (571)270-3416. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 5:30AM-3:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thao X. Le can be reached on (571)272-1708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ERIC W JONES/
Examiner, Art Unit 2892
3/25/2008